

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7280

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION: GREECE/CYPRUS -- KYPRIANOU
WINDS UP VISIT TO GREECE

1. CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU WOUND UP A FIFTEEN DAY "PRIVATE" VISIT TO ATHENS AUGUST 21. DURING HIS STAY HERE HE MET THREE TIMES WITH KARAMANLIS, ONCE WITH PAPANDREOU, AND ALSO HELD INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH OTHER POLITICIANS AND PARTY LEADERS. IN CONTRAST TO HIS PAST VISITS HERE, THERE WAS NO TV COVERAGE FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OR ON HIS DEPARTURE. HE DID, HOWEVER, ISSUE A STATEMENT BEFORE LEAVING FOR CYPRUS AUGUST 21 AND HAD MADE REMARKS IN PUBLIC EARLIER WHICH WERE CARRIED IN THE PRESS AND BY RADIO/TV.

2. PUBLICLY, LITTLE HAS EMERGED FROM WHAT TOOK PLACE IN THE TALKS BETWEEN KARAMANLIS AND KYPRIANOU. KYPRIANOU'S BRIEF PUBLIC REMARKS DURING HIS STAY WERE DOMINATED BY TWO THEMES: (A) THE ABSOLUTE COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND
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KARAMANLIS, INCLUDING, AS HE NOTED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, AGREEMENT ON THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN REGARDING CYPRUS; AND (B) GRATITUDE TO KARAMANLIS CHIEFLY AND THE GREEK PEOPLE AND POLITICAL PARTIES, IN GENERAL, FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE CYPRIOT CAUSE. KYPRIANOU MADE NO STATEMENT FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PAPANDREOU BUT PASOK ISSUED AN ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH INCLUDED THE ASSERTION THAT "AN ABSOLUTE COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS" EXISTED

BETWEEN THE CYPRIOT LEADER AND PAPANDREOU.

3. COMMENT: INTERESTED PARTIES IN CYPRUS AND IN ATHENS SEEM TO HAVE FLOATED RUMORS SUGGESTING THAT DIFFERENCES EMERGED BETWEEN KYPRIANOU AND KARAMANLIS DURING THIS VISIT. KARAMANLIS IS NATURALLY LOATHE TO HAVE SUCH STORES GAIN PUBLIC CREDENCE, AS PRESUMABLY IS KYPRIANOU. WHATEVER WENT ON IN PRIVATE BETWEEN THE TWO MEN, KYPRIANOU'S PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON THE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS WHICH PREVAILED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER HAS SCOTCHED THIS SUGGESTION FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, PREVENTING CYPRUS FROM BECOMING A POLITICALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE HERE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW HOW KYPRIANOU MIGHT EXPLAIN THE CLAIMED IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND KARAMANLIS ON THE ONE HAND AND HIMSELF AND PAPANDREOU ON THE OTHER.

4. OUR MFA WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS ADVISED US TODAY THEY WERE UNABLE TO BRIEF US ON THE KARAMANLIS-KYPRIANOU TALKS BECAUSE ONLY FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS FROM THE MINISTRY AND, SO FAR, HE HAD NOT BRIEFED THEM.
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